

# Capo Chart.

Which chord each open shape makes with a capo on frets 1 to 7, and which capo fret suits a song's key.

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CHORDS & HARMONY

## Capo Chart

Play the shape on the left with the capo on the fret at the top: the chord that sounds is where they meet.

| CAPO FRET | Open | 1           | 2            | 3         | 4            | 5  | 6            | 7  |
|-----------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| C shape   | C    | D $\flat$   | D            | E $\flat$ | E            | F  | F $\sharp$   | G  |
| A shape   | A    | B $\flat$   | B            | C         | D $\flat$    | D  | E $\flat$    | E  |
| G shape   | G    | A $\flat$   | A            | B $\flat$ | B            | C  | D $\flat$    | D  |
| E shape   | E    | F           | F $\sharp$   | G         | A $\flat$    | A  | B $\flat$    | B  |
| D shape   | D    | E $\flat$   | E            | F         | F $\sharp$   | G  | A $\flat$    | A  |
| Am shape  | Am   | B $\flat$ m | Bm           | Cm        | C $\sharp$ m | Dm | E $\flat$ m  | Em |
| Em shape  | Em   | Fm          | F $\sharp$ m | Gm        | G $\sharp$ m | Am | B $\flat$ m  | Bm |
| Dm shape  | Dm   | E $\flat$ m | Em           | Fm        | F $\sharp$ m | Gm | G $\sharp$ m | Am |

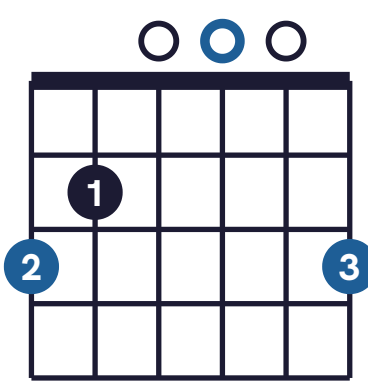
Each fret raises every chord by a half step. Shaded: the shape played open, with no capo.

Chord charts with a capo give the shapes you play, not the sounding chords: "Capo 2: G, C, D" sounds as A, D, E.

FOUNDATIONS

## How a Capo Works

A capo clamps across all six strings and acts as a new nut, so every open chord shape moves up together.



G shape, capo 2 sounds A

- Count frets from the capo: with the capo on 2, the shape's first fret is the 3rd fret of the guitar.
- Each fret up raises the key by a half step. Capo 2 takes a song in G up to A.
- Put the capo just behind the fret wire, not on top of it, and retune if the strings go sharp.
- Singers: if a song is too low, move the capo up a fret or two and play the same shapes.

Colored dot: the root of the shape.

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## Which Capo Fret?

Find the song's key on the left, then the shapes you'd like to play: the number is the capo fret (0: no capo).

| SONG KEY   | C shapes | A shapes | G shapes | E shapes | D shapes |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| C          | 0        | 3        | 5        | -        | -        |
| D $\flat$  | 1        | 4        | 6        | -        | -        |
| D          | 2        | 5        | 7        | -        | 0        |
| E $\flat$  | 3        | 6        | -        | -        | 1        |
| E          | 4        | 7        | -        | 0        | 2        |
| F          | 5        | -        | -        | 1        | 3        |
| F $\sharp$ | 6        | -        | -        | 2        | 4        |
| G          | 7        | -        | 0        | 3        | 5        |
| A $\flat$  | -        | -        | 1        | 4        | 6        |
| A          | -        | 0        | 2        | 5        | 7        |
| B $\flat$  | -        | 1        | 3        | 6        | -        |
| B          | -        | 2        | 4        | 7        | -        |

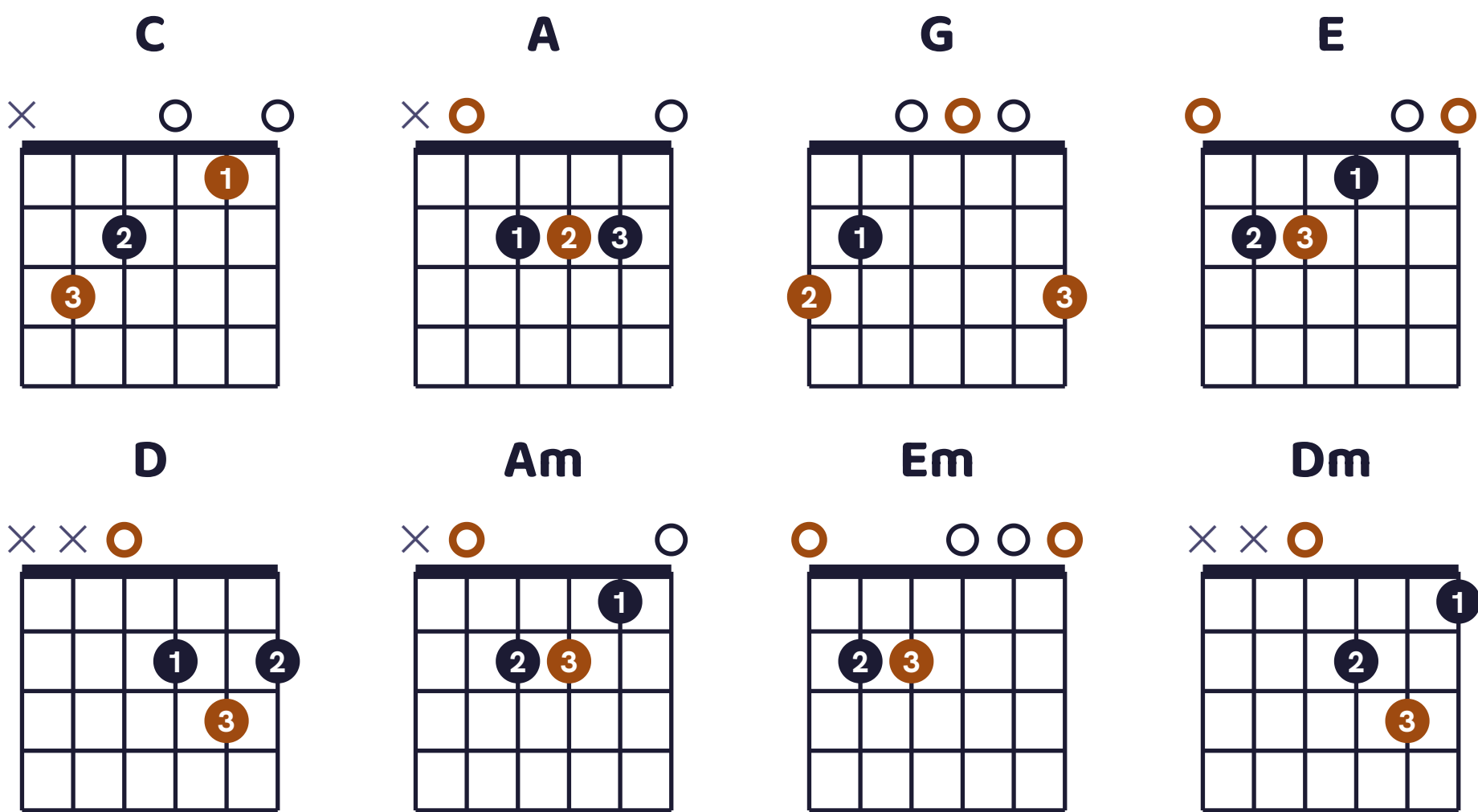
A dash: that shape needs the capo above the 7th fret.

Minor key? Use the Am, Em and Dm rows of the Capo Chart: for a song in B minor, play Am shapes with the capo on 2.

CHORDS & HARMONY

## Open Chords

The first chords most guitarists learn. Strings run top to bottom, low E on the left; the thick line at the top is the nut.



Numbers are fingers (1 = index). O play the open string, X don't play it. The colored dot is the root.

*"Music is the universal language of mankind."*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Outre-Mer, 1835

PRACTICE TIP

**Practice slowly. Speed comes from playing it right, not from playing it fast.**

